REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 22-26, 28-33 under 35 USC 102 and claims 1-19, 21, 27, 34-54 under 35 USC 103. These rejections are fully traversed below.

Claim 55 has been added. Thus, claims 1-55 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

In brief, the present invention gives users the ability to change the color or pattern of a housing, particularly a housing of a computer. The color of the housing is controllable. By colorizing or patternizing the housing, users can break free from neutral passive colors and patterns that have dominated conventional housings for so long (e.g., gray or black housings). In addition, the housing can serve as an indicator or provide a better visual experience as for example when operating with a display. In order to accomplish this, the device typically includes a light source disposed inside or internal to an illuminable housing. The light source illuminates the housing thereby changing the ornamental appearance of the housing. No such feature is taught or described in the cited art.

Claims 20, 22-26 and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Laurikka* et al (6,508,996).

In contrast to *Laurikka,* claim 20 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...illuminating a plurality of regions of the housing...," and claim 32 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...illuminating a plurality of zones of the housing..." While *Laurikka* may disclose a cover for a wireless communication electronic device whose color can be changed by means of a control signal, *Laurikka* simply does not teach or suggest illuminating the cover. In *Laurikka*, an electronic ink is coated on the cover. And as those skilled in the art are well aware, electronic inks do not use illumination but rather an electric field. As stated in *Laurikka*, "One example of such electronic ink typically contains positively or negatively charged particles 3 inside microcapsules 2, in such a way that the positively and negatively charged particles 3 have different colours. By conducting an electric control signal V into the

microcapsule 2 via conductors 4a and 4b, it is possible to make e.g. the negatively charged particles 3b to move to the upper part of the capsule and the positively charged particles 3a to the lower part. Thus, the colour produced on the surface is the colour of the negatively charged particles 3b, and the colour of the positively charged particles 3a does not substantially show on the surface through the negatively charged particles. It is typically characteristic to the electronic ink that the state of the particles set by the control signal is maintained until the state is changed again by means of the control signal, i.e. only the act of changing the state of the particles requires energy. (Col. 2, lines 39-55)." An attachment downloaded from http://www.eink.com/technology/, which is the web site for E-Ink corporation, describes electronic inks in greater detail. Again, the wireless communication device 7 does not use illumination, nor does it illuminate a housing. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Also in contrast to *Laurikka*, claim 20 specifically requires, "...sampling a plurality of regions on the screen display to acquire color indicators for the plurality of regions...," and claim 32 specifically requires, "...determining color indicators for a plurality of regions on the screen display..." These limitations are simply not taught in *Laurikka*. The Examiner quoted Col. 6, lines 1-12. This section however does not teach these claim limitations. All that this paragraph states is that the display, keyboard or antenna can change color using the same control signal that changes the color of the cover. It does not state anything about sampling multiple regions of a display or determining color indicator of multiple regions of a display as required by the claims. Furthermore, *Laurikka* does not teach or suggest changing the color of the cover based on the color of the display. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Although the rejections to the dependent claims 22-26, 28-31 and 33 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons as above, it should be noted that they offer additional language that is unsupported by the art.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. One skilled in the art would simply not be motivated to combine the electronic inks of *Laurikka* with the LEDs of *Bayramoglu* to come up with the claimed invention. These are two very different technologies that go in different directions. LEDs produce light so that they can be seen by a user while electronic inks use reflected light from the ambient surroundings so that they can be seen by the user. Furthermore, although *Bayramoglu* uses LEDs he does not use them to effect color change of bezel of the monitor. It should be noted that the Federal Circuit has repeatedly warned against using the applicant's disclosure as a blueprint to reconstruct the claimed invention out of isolated teachings in the prior art. See, e.g., Grain Processing Corp. v. American Maize-Products, 840 F.2d 902, 907, 5 USPQ2d 1788, 1792 (Fed. Cir. 1988). A prima facie case of obvious does not exist and therefore the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-19, 34-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bayramoglu* et al. (6,289,466) in view of *Laurikka* et al (6,508,996).

In contrast to both references, claim 1 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...wherein said light system provides said housing with a dynamic ornamental appearance," claim 10 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...illuminating at least a non-insignificant portion of the housing of the general computer system...," claim 34 (and its dependents)specifically requires, "driving at least one light element at the illuminable regions of the housing...thereby illuminating the regions of the housing," claim 39(and its dependents) specifically requires, "...determining illumination characteristics for the housing..." and claim 43 (and its dependents)specifically requires, "...an illuminable housing...a light arrangement...disposed in said housing, said light arrangement being configured to illuminate said illuminable housing so as to dynamically change the ornamental appearance of said housing..."

Neither of these references teach or suggest illuminating a housing. In *Bayramoglu*, LEDs are included on the front bezel. These LEDs are conventional indicators (as described in the background of the present invention). They are located on the exterior surface of the bezel and they do not illuminate the housing. The appearance of the housing remains the same even

with the use of LEDs. In *Laurikka*, electronic inks rather than illumination is used to change the color of the cover.

In the office action, the Examiner stated that "Bayramoglu teaches all the claim limitations except for the light system provides said housing with a dynamic ornamental appearance", and "Laurikka teaches a cover composing a light system (fig. 3)." As mentioned above, *Laurikka* does not teach a light system but rather a system that changes its color via electronic inks. Electronic ink systems are not light systems. The electronic ink system simply does NOT include a light source or any other parts of a light system. In fact, one may argue that *Laurikka* teaches away from a light system since electronic ink systems are viewed similarly to newspapers, i.e., they use reflected light from the ambient surroundings. In darkness, the color change in *Laurikka* would not be seen by the user. Accordingly, the rejections are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Although the rejections to the dependent claims 2-9, 11-19, 35-38, 40-42, and 44-48 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons as above, it should be noted that they offer additional language that is unsupported by the art. For example, in contrast to all the references, claim 2 specifically requires, "wherein the dynamic ornamental appearance is multi-colored. *Bayramoglu* is completely silent to colors. And while *Laurikka* may disclose changing colors, *Laurikka* only teaches changing from one color to another. *Laurikka* does not teach multiple colors at the same time. Also in contrast to all the references, claim 38 specifically requires, "...wherein said method is periodically performed such that the regions of the housing being illuminated are color matched with the regions of the screen display." Also in contrast to all the references, claim 48 specifically requires, "...wherein said light arrangement includes a plurality of light elements that produce the desired light effect." Accordingly, the rejections are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Claims 21, 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Laurikka* et al (6,508,996) in view of *Bayramoglu* et al. (6,289,466).

In contrast to both references, claim 21 specifically requires, "...the housing of the computing device includes a plurality of light elements within the housing of the computing device, and wherein said illuminating operates to drive the light elements to illuminate the plurality of the regions of the housing of the computing device." Again, *Laurikka* does not teach

or suggest illumination and further illumination that comes from within the computing device or illumination that illuminates the housing. And while *Bayramoglu* may disclose LEDs, these LEDs are not located within the housing and do not illuminate the housing. See also arguments made above. Accordingly, the rejections are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Also in contrast to both references, claim 27 specifically requires, "wherein each of the light elements comprises a plurality of different colored Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)." *Laurikka* is silent to LEDs. And while *Bayramoglu* may disclose LEDs, *Bayramoglu* does not teach or suggest light elements with a plurality of LEDs or different colored LEDs. In *Bayramoglu*, each of the LEDs sits by itself separated from other LEDs. See Fig. 2. Furthermore, *Bayramoglu* makes no mention of different colored LEDs. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Claims 49-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bayramoglu* et al. (6,289,466) in view of *Laurikka* et al (6,508,996) and further in view of *McDonough* et al. (6,486,873).

The combination of *McDonough* does not cure the deficiencies of *Bayramoglu* and *Laurikka*. In contrast to all the references, claim 49 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "wherein the computer system further includes a second computer device, the second computer device including a second computer component and a second illuminable housing." It appears the Examiner is relying on *McDonough* for the second computer device, but as shown above *Bayramoglu* and *Laurikka* do not form a first device. Therefore the claim limitations are not met. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Although the rejections to the dependent claims 50-54 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons as above, it should be noted that they offer additional language that is unsupported by the art. For example, claim 50 specifically requires, "...said second light arrangement being configured to illuminate said second housing so as to dynamically change the ornamental appearance of said second housing." Claim 51 specifically requires, "...wherein the first and second light arrangements are configured to illuminate their respective illuminable housings when said computer event is executed by said computer system." None of the references teach or suggest illuminating two different housings based on the same computer event. Claim 54 specifically requires, "...wherein the computer system is a computer network, and wherein the

first computer device is a first computer based system and the second computer device is a second computer based system, both of which are connected to the computer network." None of these references teach illuminating two different computers that are connected via a network. Accordingly, the rejections are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. The Examiner is urged to make a more detailed argument showing where in these references these features are taught in order to maintain the rejections.

SUMMARY

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Technology

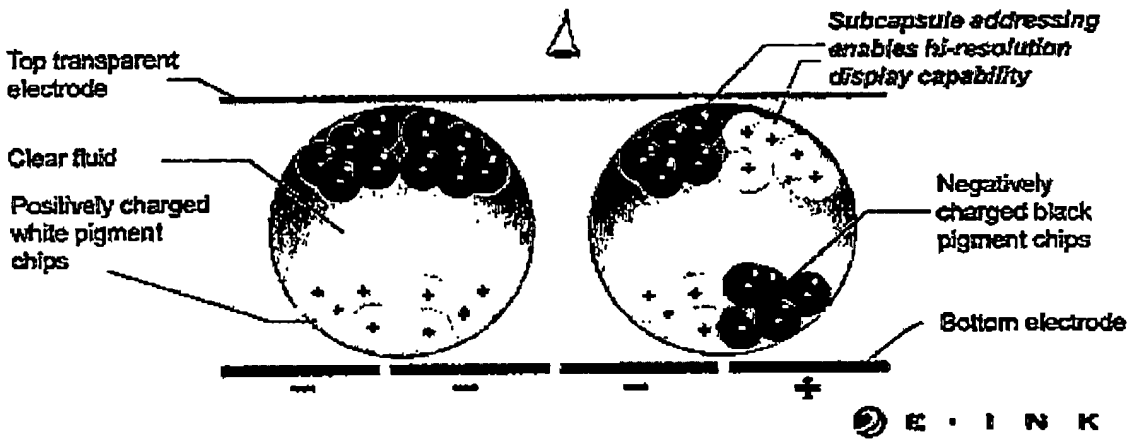
Overview

Key Benefits

Electronic ink is a new material that will have far-reaching impact on how society receives its information.

Electronic ink is a proprietary material that is processed into a film for integration into electronic displays. Although revolutionary in concept, electronic ink is a straightforward fusion of chemistry, physics and electronics to create this new material. The principal components of electronic ink are millions of tiny microcapsules, about the diameter of a human hair. In one incarnation, each microcapsule contains positively charged white particles and negatively charged black particles suspended in a clear fluid. When a negative electric field is applied, the white particles move to the top of the microcapsule where they become visible to the user. This makes the surface appear white at that spot. At the same time, an opposite electric field pulls the black particles to the bottom of the microcapsules where they are hidden. By reversing this process, the black particles appear at the top of the capsule, which now makes the surface appear dark at that spot.

Cross-Section of Electronic-Ink Microcapsules



NOTE: Image not drawn to scale - for illustration purposes only.

To form an E Ink electronic display, the ink is printed onto a sheet of plastic film that is laminated to a layer of circuitry. The circuitry forms a pattern of pixels that can then be controlled by a display driver. These microcapsules are suspended in a liquid "carrier medium" allowing them to be printed using existing screen printing processes onto virtually any surface, including glass, plastic, fabric and even paper. Ultimately electronic ink will permit most any surface to become a display, bringing information out of the confines of traditional devices and into the world around us.